

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03122 060744Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
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INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOR EUR PASS AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE LERNER

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, NO, PDIP
SUBJECT: MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT - U.S. AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY

THREE OSLO DAILIES AND NRK RADIO HAVE ANNOUNCED THE
APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS A. LERNER AS AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
TO NORWAY.

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT STORY BY ELISABETH HOLTE, NEW
YORK CORRESPONDENT FOR NORWAY'S LEADING DAILY "AFTEN-
POSTEN", CARRIED JULY 2:

BEGIN TEXT: "IF I HAVE DONE MY HOMEWORK PROPERLY?
OH YES, SUCH QUESTIONS AS THE LENGTH OF THE BORDER TO-
WARDS THE SOVIET UNION, AREA WITH AND WITHOUT SVAL-
BARD, POPULATION, ETD., ETC., I CAN ANSWER. BUT
DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER
ELECTIONS," THE 41-YEAR-OLD NEWSPAPER OWNER LOUIS
A. LERNER FROM CHICAGO, WHO WAS FRIDAY APPOINTED
NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY, SAYS LAUGHING.

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LERNER, WHO OWNS A CHAIN OF 53 LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN
THE CHICAGO AREA, SUPPORTED CARTER FROM AN EARLY DATE
IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND BELIEVES THAT HE WILL
BE AMONG THE GREAT PRESIDENTS IN U.S. HISTORY.
TODAY LERNER IS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRESI-
DENT'S B-1 DECISION, WHICH HE FEELS PRECISELY SHOWS
CARTER'S QUALITIES.

ON JULY 12, LERNER WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO HAVE HIS APPOINTMENT APPROVED, AND AS THINGS LOOK TODAY, IT SEEMS THAT HE WILL BE SWORN IN BY VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE - THE MOST PROMINENT NORWEGIAN IN THE U.S. AS HE CALLS HIM - ON AUGUST 5. THEN HE, MRS. SUSAN LERNER AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN OF FIVE AND ELEVEN YEARS, EXPECT TO LEAVE FOR OSLO SHORTLY AFTERWARDS. BUT FIRST OF ALL, HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON JULY 11-12.

"TO ME, THE POSITION OF AMBASSADOR IS NOT A "PARTY JOB", IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB, WHICH ONE CAN MAKE MORE OF THAN HAS POSSIBLY BEEN DONE SO FAR," LERNER SAYS. HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED ABOUT, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE BARENTS SEA NEGOTIATIONS AND THE NORWEGIAN VIEW REGARDING THE PREFERENCE BILL FOR AMERICAN SHIPS, WHICH COMMERCE MINISTER HALLVARD BAKKE PROTESTED AGAINST IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS WEEK.

BUT LERNER STRESSES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO GET A WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS, NOT ONLY WITH POLITICIANS, BUT ALSO WITH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE CULTURAL LIFE AND LABOR UNIONS.

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HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND LIBRARIES, WHICH HE HOPES TO ESTABLISH GOOD CONTACT WITH, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH. ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, LERNER ATTENDED A FOLK HIGH SCHOOL IN ROSKILDE IN DENMARK ON A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE AMERICAN SCANDINAVIAN SEMINAR AND STILL LIKES TO SPEAK DANISH. HE ALSO KNOWS ENOUGH ABOUT NORWEGIAN MUSIC, LITERATURE AND PAINTING, TO BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE NORWEGIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE IS NOT LIMITED TO HOLBERG, MUNCH, IBSEN AND GRIEG, WHICH ARE THE NAMES FOREIGNERS USUALLY MENTION WHEN DEMONSTRATING WHAT THEY KNOW ABOUT NORWAY.

"SEE YOU IN OSLO, THEN," SAYS THE NEWLY-APPOINTED AMBASSADOR LOUIS LERNER IN BROAD DANISH OVER THE TELEPHONE FROM CHICAGO. END TEXT.

FOLLOWING UPI STORY CARRIED PRE-CHINESE MARXIST-Leninist DAILY (KLASSEKAMPEN" AND THE VERY CONSER-

VATIVE NORWEGIAN JOURNAL OF COMMERCE AND SHIPPING:

BEGIN TEXT: "NORWAY IS AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY. ALL
SEA TRAFFIC FROM THE SOVIET UNION PASSES BY NORWAY.
THE NORTHERN FLANK IS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES IN
OUR MILITARY POLICY IN EUROPE." THE NEWLY-APPOINTED
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY, LOUIS A. LERNER,
COMMENTED ON FRIDAY. THE 42-YEAR-OLD LERNER, WHO
OWNS SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS IN CHICAGO, SPEAKS FLUENT
DANISH. HE WILL BE COMING TO NORWAY IN AUGUST.
"ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS FOR ME IN NORWAY
WILL BE TO REPORT, BOTH TO THE AMERICAN AND TO
THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS. I THINK THERE WILL BE
ENOUGH THINGS TO REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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IN WASHINGTON," LERNER SAYS, AND REFERS IN PARTICULAR
TO NORWAY'S IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POSITION, ACCORDING
TO NTB XUPI FROM CHICAGO. END TEXT.
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